

21 July 1980

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet Pressure on Iran

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The Soviets probably are trying to push the Iranians to accept the return of Iranians who left their country in 1946 and 1953 when the pro-Soviet Tudeh Party and the Azarbayjani Democratic Party were repressed by the Shah. According to

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[REDACTED] over 5,000 members of the ADP fled Iran in 1946. [REDACTED]

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reports that the Soviets encouraged the exiles to keep their Iranian citizenship. The Shah was pressed by USSR to allow these exiles to come home--he allowed some to return but carefully monitored their actions and put many in prison.

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[REDACTED]

Given the poor status of Iran's security forces, the Soviets have probably already infiltrated many of their Tudeh and ADP assets into Iran across the border near Baku. Nonetheless, the Soviets almost certainly wish to infiltrate more agents into Iran and any mass return of exiles would doubtless include a large number of Communist agents and sympathizers. [REDACTED]

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We doubt that the Khomeini government will agree to the Soviets demand for repatriating the Communist exiles. Tehran has repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to refuse

This memorandum was prepared by [REDACTED] of the Southwest Asia Analytic Center, Near East South Asia Division, Office of Political Analysis. Comments or queries may be addressed to Deputy Chief, Southwest Asia Analytic Center on [REDACTED]

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to give in to great power pressure from both the US and
USSR. [redacted]

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NFAC/OPA/SAAC/Iran [REDACTED]:ch [REDACTED] (21July1980)

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